

sented before the State Meeting. Do you realize that the columns of the *Journal* have not been open to receive articles for publication directly submitted for over a year and a half? And yet, until printing costs adjust themselves, it is impossible to contemplate immediate enlargement. Last year over thirty state society papers were rejected for one of three reasons. They were too long. They were wretchedly written. Or else they were too technical, and the author joined in feeling that they would more properly appear in a more technical journal. If some kindly divinity would but endow each person on the coming program with a clear vision of the appearance he presents and the manner in which he presents his paper, and the fact that no one is heard, medically or otherwise, because of his much speaking, what a lot of time and stress we would all be saved. Be brief. Be clear. Speak loudly. Stop when you are done. Know what you are trying to put across.

Then there is the perennial rejuvenation of the desire to have stenographic reports of the discussions. Our *Journal* is too small. The best estimate of the cost of stenographic reports is in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars. Can't it be better spent, when we get it, than in reporting discussions? Until then, we must go to publication undiscussed.

Remember then that we will be a long time dead and that the meeting of the State Society offers a welcome oasis as we cross the sands of medical practice and the desert of earning a livelihood, and in these oases are to be found professional pabulum and spiritual refreshing, and good fellowship and a new vision of work well done and new duties pressing. Come to the meeting in San Diego.

INTERVIEW YOUR SENATOR AND ASSEMBLYMAN.

The Legislature is taking a constitutional recess. Senators and Assemblymen have returned to their homes and are ready to discuss pending bills with their constituents. The Legislature will not convene again until February 24th.

Now is the time to interview and inform your Assemblyman and Senator. The *Journal* is familiar with the facts and advocates the passage of Senate Bills Nos. 346, 401, 406, 408, 409 and 410. The first of these, Senate Bill 346, was introduced by Senator Anderson and regulates the incorporation, resources, equipment, faculties, and curricula of any school or college that purports to qualify applicants for a physician and surgeon certificate and a drugless practitioner certificate. One factor largely responsible for some of the pernicious measures that appeared on the November ballot and which were condemned as dangerous by a large majority of the people, is the present weak law of this State regulating the incorporation of colleges that purport to teach the healing art. It is the duty of the State to safeguard the health of its people and only men and women properly educated can safely be licensed to practice the healing art.

The people generally regard a diploma from a college, academy or university as certain evidence that its possessor has certain qualifications. A little learning is a dangerous thing in any of the professions, but especially so when applied to such precious possessions as health and life. Senate Bill No. 346 is a constructive measure offered by the League for the Conservation of Public Health in the interests of students who attend colleges in this State to qualify themselves to practice the healing art and in the interest of the people who will be attended by such students after graduation. In this effort to protect the public from unqualified service the League has the heartiest support of the great majority of people and the entire medical profession.

It is the public that is most interested, for it is the public that must suffer from the ignorance of the incompetents. The people of California have voted uniformly in their various communities for better schools. Educational standards have been raised all along the line except where some alleged colleges attempt to teach the healing art without adequate buildings, equipment, funds or faculty. These incompetent schools are the sources from which incompetents flow. Senate Bill No. 346 will stop the source and the flow will cease. It is a measure that should have the hearty support of all Senators and Assemblymen interested in educational standards as safeguards for the public welfare.

Senate Bill 408 is an act to repeal the general vaccination act for public and private schools. This act has been the source of confusion and useless expense. It does not seem practical of administration without much friction. The law requires that a child must be vaccinated or present a conscientious objector's card before he or she can be admitted to school. Many children whose parents recognized the efficacy of vaccination presented objector's cards and thereby created false statistics and increased the work and expense of City and State health departments. The establishment of exclusive districts for unvaccinated children created more work and expense. The repeal of the law will in no way interfere with the present powers of health officers.

Senate Bill 406, introduced by Senator Crowley, provides for the conduct, maintenance and operation of clinical, diagnostic, pathological and biological laboratories and the preparation, manufacture, standardization, sale or other disposal of serums, vaccines, antitoxins and other biological products. This bill was prepared after conference with leading medical authorities of the State and should not be confused with Senate Bill 479, which attempts to duplicate essential features of Senate Bill 406, but contains other provisions that render it of doubtful value.

Senate Bill 409 adds a new section to the medical practice act relating to the use and application of Roentgen rays, X-rays or Radium rays in the examination, diagnosis or treatment of human beings for diseases, injuries, deformities, etc. Many reasons for the passage of this bill will readily occur to everyone familiar with this subject.

Senate Bills 401 and 410 strengthen and clarify sections of the medical practice act. In Senate Bill 401 anesthesiology is introduced as a new subject with thirty-two hours in the course of instruction for a physician and surgeon certificate. In Senate Bill 410 the oral, practical or clinical phrase which was an indeterminate feature of examinations is eliminated.

Senate Bill 114, which is an act to provide for and regulate the examination and registration of nurses, will require definite amendments before it can be approved. We understand that the authors of the bill have had its defects pointed out to them and welcome amendments that will make the laudable purposes of the measure more certain. The medical profession and the public are devoted to the advancement of nursing in this state and nothing must be done that will hamper nursing in small or large hospitals. The law should embody definitely stated minimum standards, and the definition of "accredited schools" should be more clear and complete.

Is it advisable to create various classes of nurses? There are a number of other legislative measures that we will discuss in the next issue of the Journal. If any reader wishes fuller information on these or other bills affecting public health that are now pending before the Legislature, a letter addressed to The League for the Conservation of Public Health, Butler Building, San Francisco, will receive prompt attention.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS ABOLISHED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 347

On January 18th Governor William D. Stephens sent a special message to the Legislature setting forth, in general terms, an economy and efficiency program. It was stated that this program proceeded upon the fundamental lines recommended by the "Boynton Efficiency Committee" which, two years ago, after lengthy investigation, filed a comprehensive report upon the consolidation of many boards, commissions and other state agencies.

Eight bills were introduced to accomplish the administration's "economy and efficiency plan."

In the Governor's message what was referred to as "the seventh bill" to create a "Department of Professional Standards" was introduced as the first bill of the eight Efficiency Economy Bills in numerical order. We are not informed whether this was an accident, or whether it is considered of first importance, and should therefore be first considered.

It was introduced by Assemblyman J. R. White, Jr., of Los Angeles County, and is known as Assembly Bill 347. It abolishes the Board of Medical Examiners and merges it and all its essential functions with the Boards of Architecture, Accountancy, Dental Examiners, Embalmers, Library Examiners, Optometrists, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.

A lay director shall have power, according to Assembly Bill 347, "to issue licenses for all of these professions, and to suspend or revoke licenses. He shall not be a practitioner of any of the professions under his jurisdiction, but shall select,

for each examination and for each hearing, a board of three persons each of whom shall be a person licensed to practice in this state the profession concerned."

In this bill we first observe a fundamental departure from the recommendations made by the Boynton Committee on Efficiency and Economy. In that report sent by the Governor to the Legislature March 12, 1919, it was set forth as a fundamental policy that only "those agencies which perform similar or allied functions" should be placed under one executive head. The Board of Medical Examiners and some others were "left to function independently" and it was the opinion of the committee as "seriously questionable" whether or not "increased efficiency" would be accomplished by consolidating a number of boards that had no apparent common function. It was pointed out that the item of economy could not be urged "for the reason that all of these boards are supported by fees collected from the professions regulated."

"One science only will one genius fit, so vast is art, so narrow human wit," the scheme proposed in Assembly Bill 347 would have one lay "genius" handle Architects and Embalmers, Dentists and Accountants, Librarians and Veterinarians, Optometrists and Pharmacists with the scientific medical profession thrown in for good measure. It is obvious that this fanciful grouping is not based upon any close relationship between these boards or any similar or allied functions which they are competent to perform.

On whose advice was the Governor led to adopt this impracticable plan, placing a number of uncoordinated professional boards without common policy under the control of an unprofessional chief?

Excellent advice is available, and had the Governor's advisors taken counsel with those best qualified to give it on the most economic and efficient method to maintain professional standards for the protection of the public health, they would realize that Assembly Bill 347 contains vital defects. The chief purpose of the Board of Medical Examiners is to test the qualifications of those who undertake to treat disease in any form and to protect the public from unskilled and incompetent practitioners, from imposition by charlatans and quacks who make extravagant claims of ability to cure the sick and are a constant menace to the health of their victims and the community at large. The public as a whole is entitled to know that anyone licensed by the state for a profession which requires the highest skill, learning and character shall have these qualifications determined by competent judges, and that the incompetent and unscrupulous shall be excluded from practice no matter how loudly they clamor. No law must be passed for political expediency that will lower standards, admit the uneducated to practice, and thereby jeopardize the public health.

One of the arguments advanced in favor of Assembly Bill 347 creates deep concern. It is stated by some of its advocates that the lay director of the proposed department of professional standards may, under the terms of the bill, appoint examiners from any of the many drugless cults of Cali-